IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 - 12 in their entirety and without prejudice and substitute the following new claims:

--13.   A method for preconditioning one or more data tables of a decision application server (4) in a search system (1), intended to be processed by a search engine (2) responding to queries sent by the decision application server (4), for selecting records based on given criteria, characterized in that it consists of:

- analyzing (14) predicates contained in fields of records intended to fill the relational database (6) in accordance with given authorized relations;

- creating (16) a nomenclature (17) of the predicates from said analysis;

- taking the nature of the predicates and the relations to be implemented in the predicates into account in the queries;

- numerically encoding (15) the predicates in accordance with the nomenclature (17); and

- presenting the encoded predicates in the form of a data table (10) of numeric values.

14.   The method according to claim 13, characterized in that the step of encoding consists of replacing the values of the predicates with indexes of the predicates in the nomenclature of possible values.

15.   The method according to claim 13, characterized in that the step of encoding compacts data.

16.   The method according to claim 13, characterized in that the step of encoding takes into account the type of query served.

17.   The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the step of encoding takes into account the type of query served.

1   18.   The method according to claim 15, characterized in that the step of

2   encoding takes into account the type of query served.

inconsistent preamble

1   19.   A method for searching for records in a data table in response to a

2   given query, according to claim 13, further characterized in that it consists of

3   installing a copy (10) of a table of the numeric values obtained in a machine with

4   vectorial capability (9) which processes the numeric values of the table in

5   accordance with the query served by the decision application server (4).

inconsistent preamble

1   20.   A method for searching for records in a data table in response to a

2   given query, according to claim 14, further characterized in that it consists of

3   installing a copy (10) of a table of the numeric values obtained in a machine with

4   vectorial capability (9) which processes the numeric values of the table in

5   accordance with the query served by the decision application server (4).

inconsistent preamble

1   21.   A method for searching for records in a data table in response to a

2   given query, according to claim 15, further characterized in that it consists of

3   installing a copy (10) of a table of the numeric values obtained in a machine with

4   vectorial capability (9) which processes the numeric values of the table in

5   accordance with the query served by the decision application server (4).

inconsistent preamble

1   22.   A method for searching for records in a data table in response to a

2   given query, according to claim 16, further characterized in that it consists of

3   installing a copy (10) of a table of the numeric values obtained in a machine with

4   vectorial capability (9) which processes the numeric values of the table in

5   accordance with the query served by the decision application server (4).

1   23.   A method according to claim 19, characterized in that the query is

2   expressed by one or more vectors representing values searched for in a field, and in

3   that the processing of the numeric values consists of comparing the vector or

4   vectors to all lines of the table, column by column, and saving the line number for

5   each coincidence.

1   24.   A method according to claim 23, wherein all line numbers selected are
2   utilized and the relational database (6) comprises an additional field containing the
3   number of lines, and further characterized by extracting from the relational database
4   (6), in response to a query the plaintext records searched whose numbers
5   correspond.

WHAT?

1   25.   A method according to claim 23, characterized in that it consists of
2   expressing processing results in statistical form, a synthesis of which is provided in
3   response to a query.

WHAT?

1   26.   A method according to claim 24, characterized in that it consists of
2   expressing processing results in statistical form, a synthesis of which is provided in
3   response to a query.

no ant

1   27.   A method according to claim 16, characterized in that the machine with
2   vectorial capabilities (9) is a supercomputer.

1   28.   A method according to claim 23, characterized in that the machine with
2   vectorial capabilities (9) is a supercomputer.

1   29.   A method according to claim 24, characterized in that the machine with
2   vectorial capabilities (9) is a supercomputer.

1   30.   A method according to claim 25, characterized in that the machine with
2   vectorial capabilities (9) is a supercomputer.

1   31.   A search system (1) implemented by a decision application server (4)
2   comprising a relational database (6) containing a set of target records, a search
3   engine (2) coupled with the decision application server (4), activated by a query for
4   selecting records based on given criteria sent by the decision application server (4),
5   said engine (2) including a module (8) for preconditioning data of the base (6) and
6   installing an encoded table (10) corresponding to the base (6) in a machine with
7   vectorial capabilities (9), said module (8) further comprising:

5

8   means (13) for reading a data file corresponding to the base;

9   - means (16) for building a nomenclature (17) for the values of the fields

10 contained in the file;

11   - means (15) for encoding fields in accordance with the nomenclature (17),

12 taking the nature of the fields and the relations to be implemented in the predicates

13 into account in the query;

14   - means (21) for analyzing queries sent by the decision application server (1),

15 taking into account the authorized relations, the constraints on the predicates and

16 the nomenclature (17); and

17   - means (22) for encoding the filtered query into a set of vectors containing

18 the values to be found in the fields in accordance with the associated relations, in

19 the form of an input file usable by the machine with vectorial capabilities (9).

1   32.   A system according to claim 31, further comprising means (23) for

2 extracting in plaintext the data searched for in the result file obtained as output from

3 the machine with vectorial capabilities (9), using search means installed in the

4 decision application server (4).

1   33.   A system according to claim 31, further comprising a management

2 agent (24) that monitors the activity of the machine with vectorial capabilities,

3 handles abnormalities, and activates search means in the machine with vectorial

4 capabilities (9).

1   34.   A system according to claim 32, further comprising a management

2 agent (24) that monitors the activity of the machine with vectorial capabilities,

3 handles abnormalities, and activates search means in the machine with vectorial

4 capabilities (9).--